

CHAPTER 4

II. VARIATION IN SELF-ASSESSED PERFORMANCE OF KEY ACTIVITIES BY SIZE OF POPULATION SERVED

The percentage of agencies in each population group rated as performing very well and cutting edge was reviewed to determine if, as a group, particular sized agencies performed substantially better. In 2001, agencies serving populations from 40,001 to 80,000 were the strongest group in the core function of assurance. In 2002, the largest agencies are reportedly the strongest group in performing activities of assurance, and remained the strongest group in performing each of the other core public health functions. Agencies serving populations up to 20,000 reported the weakest performance overall, scoring themselves lower than all other groups for 36 of the 46 key activities.

The overall average scores on performance of key activities are 139 for agencies serving populations up to 20,000, 151 for agencies serving population sizes 20,001 to 40,000 and 40,001 to 80,000, and 157 for agencies serving populations greater than 80,000.

The following lists identify key activities reportedly performed very well or better when the percentage of agencies in one group exceeded all other groups by at least 5%.

A higher percentage of agencies serving populations greater than 80,000 rated their performance of the following 20 key activities as very good or better:

ASSESSMENT

- Developing and maintaining systems for collecting vital records and data that characterize the health of the population
- Determining health status
- Identifying and assessing trends
- Drawing inferences from data
- Reporting results of analysis to appropriate audiences

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- Leading the community to identify community priorities and desired outcomes
- Formulating and prioritizing alternative solutions
- Developing strategies to achieve desired outcomes
- Reviewing policy and procedure within legal authority
- Involving community in development of policy
- Identifying community and agency resources
- Identifying legal authority
- Promoting state and local legislation and regulation
- Translating adopted policy into operating procedure
- Involving and educating affected parties

ASSURANCE

- Achieving compliance with laws and regulation
- Responding to emergencies, developing and implementing local emergency response plans
- Promoting public and professional awareness of disease threats
- Assuring communities have information, resources, and strategies to protect resident health
- Assuring population has access to outreach services

A higher percentage of agencies serving populations from 40,001 to 80,000 rated their performance of the following 5 key activities as very good or better:

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

- Identifying cost and effects of proposed strategies
- Identifying cost and effects of proposed policy
- Identifying need for change in policy or programs

ASSURANCE

- Assuring laboratory capacity for public health purposes
- Assuring prevention efforts for communicable disease

A higher percentage of agencies serving populations from 20,001 to 40,000 rated their performance of the following 7 key activities as very good or better:

ASSESSMENT

- Designing and conducting assessments to ascertain biological and behavioral risk factors
- Assessing community health care delivery systems for capacity, availability, cost, and utilization
- Drawing inferences from data

ASSURANCE

- Assuring that health care providers have access to training and continuing professional education
- Collaborating with the community and health care providers to reduce barriers to accessing health care and preventive services
- Assuring adequate supply and distribution of health care services
- Assuring population has access to service coordination

For the remaining 14 core functions, not included among those listed above, self-rated performance by a particular group does not substantially exceed all other groups of agencies.